

Bird Information, Research and Data Quarterly Report

April, May, June 2018

Warner Park Nature Center, Friends of Warner Parks, and Metro Parks and Recreation



An active season with 853 visitors learning about birds during research projects and programs.



Laura Cook, our new BIRD staff member, welcomes visitors to the Spring BIRD Celebration Day, and Kathy Shaw and team remove a surprise guest in a mist net— a Midland Water Snake!



A Yellow-throated Warbler is well-named and a treat to view up close. Another name is Sycamore Warbler because it likes to nest along streams in a Sycamore Tree!



The Northern Parula (another warbler) nests in the Park and winters in Central American. The Nashville Warbler (right) is just migrating through, heading north to nest.



Kathy Shaw (second from left), Assistant BIRD Coordinator, was honored for her over 20 years of volunteer service at the Mary Catherine Strobel Volunteer Awards Luncheon in April. Nominated by FOWP. Pictured with Diana McLusky, Sandy Bivens, Susan Bradfield.



Patty Ghertner, Sarah McCune and Laura Cook conduct a Barn Swallow Nest Survey in the Warner Parks. Matt Wilkins, with Vanderbilt University, bands our first-ever barn swallows in this pilot project.



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BIRD Program Accomplishments

- Volunteers contributed **557 hours and 163 visits**
- Bird Research Projects and Programs connected with over **853 visitors**
- On 25 April, Kathy Shaw, Assistant BIRD Coordinator, was honored for her dedication and over 20 years of volunteer service at the Mary Catherine Strobel Annual Awards Ceremony and luncheon. Congratulations Kathy, and thank you!
- Compiled spring bird project results and planned for MAPS banding project
- Scheduled and led training meeting for permitted banding staff, volunteers, and trainees
- Planned spring and summer bird programs, BIRD Celebration Day and Year of BIRD events
- Planned for sustainability and future of the BIRD program with staff, volunteers, FOWP committees, and partners
- In April, Haley Powell, 2017 BIRD Intern, presented her project at Lipscomb University, the Nature Center Spring BIRD Celebration, and the Southeastern Biologists Symposium
- Laura Cook started in her new position with the BIRD Program on 1 May! She and Sandy Bivens will be working together during the year and coordinating BIRD. Laura has been a regular BIRD volunteer and member of the team for almost two years, has a wealth of experience, and has a graduate degree in Wildlife Biology. Welcome, Laura!
- Met with Dr. John Lewis, Lipscomb University Biology Department, who again funded BIRD Intern - the 3rd year for this program. Laura Cook scheduled meetings & supervised 2018 intern, Sarah McCune, June-July
- Scheduled and led training meeting for permitted banding staff, volunteers, and trainees
- Trained new BIRD staff; meetings, files, projects & programs, data management, Bandit, administration
- Attended and assisted with BIRD Committee and Hummingbird Happy Hour Planning meetings
- Sandy, Laura, Kathy, & John attended AFO/WOS Joint Conference in Chattanooga 7-9 June
- Coordinator worked 200, volunteered 117 hours; new coordinator worked 128, volunteered 34 hours

BIRD Projects and Programs

- **Long-term Spring/April Banding Project:** 5 sessions (0 rainouts) 64 birds of 20 species captured (37 new, 25 recaptures, 2 unbanded). Top 5 species—White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse. Species of special interest were Hairy Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-throated Warbler. Several interesting recaptures and first ever snake in the net! 465 visitors attended. Thanks to volunteers Kathy Shaw, Diana McLusky, John Kell, Susan Bradfield, Ethel Kawamura, Laura Cook, Ethel Kawamura, Patty Ghertner, Melinda Welton, Amy Potter, Marion Praitt, Kim Bailey, Sandy Bivens..
- **23 Bird Programs:** 23 programs with 602 participants—2018 is Year of the Bird, celebrating 100 year anniversary of Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Nature Club theme is birds. Spring Bird Celebration & International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, 28 April, with 319 visitors. Partnered with City Nature Challenge on 28 April and submitted photos of birds banded through iNaturalist.
- **NTOS Bird Count:** Kim Bailey & Rachel Anderson and visitors participated in the official spring count on 6 May.
- **MAPS Breeding Bird Banding Study:** 28th season for this continent-wide research project in the Warner Parks. Six of ten banding sessions held May-June with four others scheduled July-August. 388 visitors, including individuals, families, field trips, camps, schools, universities and Camp Warner Park.
- **Breeding Bird Survey:** Survey completed by Sandy Bivens and Bob Parrish on 4 June. 34th year. 51 species.
- **Bluebird Project, ongoing since 1936:** Diana McLusky, Coordinator. Warner Park Bluebird population stable – more competition from Tree Swallows early in season. Thanks to the Bluebird Team for regularly monitoring 50 boxes this quarter - John Kell, Sue Shallow, Kim Bailey, Sandy Bivens, Diana McLusky and the Laura Cook family.
- **Purple Martin Project:** Heather Gallagher, Coordinator. Nest boxes and gourds monitored regularly. Nesting only occurred this season on the nature center grounds.
- **eBird Project:** Laura Cook, Sandy Bivens, John Kell & other staff & volunteers entered current & historical Warner Park data. All banding data and some photos are entered on the Warner Park Banding Station hotspot.
- **iNaturalist:** Coordinator, Patty Ghertner. Entered bird photos and observations to this citizen-science project. Patty also trained staff, volunteers, and visitors to add observations.
- **Barn Swallow Survey:** 1st ever Warner Park Barn Swallow nest survey initiated by BIRD Intern Sarah McCune. 59 nests recorded in 3 of 6 sites. Entered survey results into the iNaturalist Barn Swallow Project. Banded nestlings for 1st time ever on the Learning Center porch with Matt Wilkins, Vanderbilt University.

Bird Education and Research Program Coordinators Sandy Bivens and Laura Cook, Assistant Coordinator Kathy Shaw

Submitted by Sandy Bivens, August 2018